

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 00461 220822Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05

SS-15 PA-02 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /043 W

-----113834 220827Z /17

O 220750Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 619

USDAO KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

INFO: RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 461

SECDEF FOR DIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GB

SUBJ: DOWNED HELICOPTER

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 449 (B) (NOTAL) YATES GRIBBIN TELCON

1. PASSED SUBSTANCE REFTEL B TELCON TO PRESIDENCY
APPROXIMATELY MIDNIGHT FEB. 21. AT 0730 FEB 22 MINISTER
NGUEMA CAME TO EMBASSY STATED PRESIDENT BONGO APPRECIATED
OUR EFFORTS AND HELP AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF USDAO AIRCRAFT
FROM KINSHASA COULD COME TO ASSIST IN SEARCH.

2. FOR USDAO KINSHASA: WASHINGTON ADVISED ME BY
TELCON THAT SATELLITE SURVEILLANCE NOT AVAILABLE. OTHER
US RESOURCES SUCH AS HELICOPTERS ON USS INCHON TOO
FAR AWAY TO ASSIST AND STATED THEY RECOMMENDING THAT
USDAO AIRCRAFT COME TO GABON TO ASSIST IN SEARCH. PLEASE
ADVISE IF AND WHEN YOU COULD ARRIVE.

3. LOCAL RADIO CONTINUOUSLY ANNOUNCING IN FRENCH AND
ALL DIALECTS THAT MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PUMA HELICOPTER
WITH EIGHT PERSONS ABOARD MADE FORCED LANDING 1230 FEB. 20 IN ZONE
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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00461 220822Z

BETWEEN NJOLE, BOAUE, LASTOURVILLE AND KOULA-MOUTA. ANNOUNCEMENT
DIRECTS ALL LOCAL POPULATION TO ASSIST IN SEARCH AND
REPORT TO NEAREST GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ANY INFORMATION.
ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO CALLS ON ALL PRIVATE COMPANIES WORKING
IN GABON TO LEND THEIR FULL RESOURCES TO SEARCH.

4. FOR USDAO KINSHASA: AFTER DICTATING ABOVE MINISTER

NJUEMA CALLED BACK TO ASK ME TO TELEPHONE MY COLLEAGUE
IN KINSHASA TO ASSURE THAT THE DAO AIRCRAFT CAME THIS
MORNING. NGUEMA STATED THAT SEARCH EFFORT
BEING MANAGED BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL NGARI WHO HAS SET UP
COMMAND POST AT AIR BASE AND THAT AIRCRAFT SHOULD REPORT
TO HIM WHEN AND IF IT ARRIVED. I KNOW HOW EXCEEDINGLY
FULL YOU PROGRAM IS BUT URGE YOU TO ASSIST IF THERE
ANY WAY POSSIBLE. YATES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOWNED HELICOPTER
TAGS: EAIR, GB
To: STATE USDAO KINSHASA
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